

Greenmount October 2022

Saturday, 1st October 2022

We were up early and at the old school shortly after 8 a.m. to prepare our electrical stall for the table-top sale at 9 a.m.

We did quite well with some large sales, taking just over £100.

It took a while to pack up and I brought a Panasonic Home Cinema system home to test since the old school did not have a TV aerial.

We had a late lunch and I finished off entering the TV recordings for the coming week before dealing with the accounts for the month end and the outstanding e-mails. I also performed the weekly back up of my data.

Sunday, 2nd October 2022

I started off by moving the car onto the road, where it remained until the end of the following day, so that Rachel and Jenny could work in the garage and under the car port, sorting the car boot stock and preparing for the car boot sale next weekend.

I thought I had better take a look at the vacuum cleaner that belonged to Val Parr, which I had brought home from the old school. The old Dyson cleaner would not power on.

I had already checked the fuse in the plug so I dismantled the switch housing and confirmed that power was being supplied to the machine and also that the switch was working properly. After that, the power lead disappeared down the shaft and into the motor housing, which I could not figure out how to remove and even if I persevered, there was little point in doing so, since I didn't have any spare parts and it would probably cost more to repair than the 9-year old machine was worth.

I put the machine back together and telephoned Val but there was no reply.

Monday, 3rd October 2022

I spent my day cutting wood for the fire, which we were now lighting in the late afternoon on most days. I still had a stash of uncut, well-aged wood but it was a question of whether I could cut it quickly enough to keep up the demand and whether I had enough to last the winter. My plan was not to use the central heating if I could avoid it due to the extortionate cost of gas. Why line the pockets of those with more money than that with which they knew what to do when I could obtain my wood for free?

Andrew from Travis Perkins telephoned to ask me if I could find a use for or dispose of the 100 mm coving since he would have difficulty arranging a driver to collect it. I said I was sure I could manage to do something with it.

Tuesday, 4th October 2022

My morning and early afternoon were taken up with routine household tasks, fixing the problem of my Windows 10 laptop not being able to see the mapped, shared, public folders on my Windows 7 desktop (it still worked fine the other way round) and editing the recorded TV programmes from the last few days, not having had time to deal with them earlier.

The file access problem was not a firewall issue and, as far as I could see, everything was configured correctly. The access had been fine until yesterday. The solution to the problem was to configure both systems to use NetBIOS over TCP/IP.

I telephoned Val to let her know the vacuum cleaner was not working, explained the situation and said I would return it to her home on Friday as we went grocery shopping.

A lady from Specsavers telephoned to say Jenny's glasses were ready for collection and we decided to call in to obtain those as we went grocery shopping as well. Friday was going to be a busy day.

After lunch I finished off the task of bringing my diary entries up to date.

I moved some items around in the back bedroom so I had room to work, although I needed to move the furniture from the centre of the room as well. Jenny was taking some of her car booty that was stored in the room to the sale on Saturday so, hopefully, she would dispose of some of it.

I read through my diary entry for last month so I could publish it on my web site. I hadn't published anything for several months.

I discovered a massive faux pas in my Picture Gallery showing Matthew on his bike four years before he was born. I spent ages correcting that error and left the update of the web site until tomorrow.

Wednesday, 5th October 2022

I was up at 7 a.m. for a call of nature, or, in my case, a call for catheter. I didn't get back to sleep. Jenny's alarm went off at 7:30 a.m. My alarm went off at 7:45 a.m. as usual.

I grabbed my mobile phone and prepared to submit a request for Jenny to see the doctor using the AskMyGP facility, which came online at 8:00 a.m.

We had breakfast and I washed the dishes while Jenny dried them as usual. Afterwards, we settled in the lounge and I updated my web site and dealt with my E-mails, one of which was from a new Firth Park Grammar School contact.

The doctor telephoned Jenny while she was unavailable and I answered, making her an appointment for 2 p.m.

The plan was to have a quick shower and lunch before Jenny's appointment. We only had time for the shower before Jenny, who was first in the bathroom, had to rush for her consultation.

While Jenny was out, I tested the Panasonic surround sound system I had brought from the old school jumble, thinking it needed a TV input. It didn't. All it needed was an HDMI screen and an FM aerial. It worked a treat, playing DVDs, Blu-ray discs and CDs. Unfortunately, I was missing one of the speaker cables and I was extremely annoyed because I was sure I had wrapped everything up and put it all in the one box.

Jenny came back and we had a late lunch. Afterwards, I was thinking of going round to the old school to look for the missing cable but the rain started again. It had turned a little warmer and the sun was making an attempt to penetrate the clouds but not succeeding.

I edited the latest TV recordings and looked up pricing for some of our recently acquired our car booty.

Thursday, 6th October 2022

Caroline called for a brief chat on her way to a meeting at the local GP's surgery.

We went into Ramsbottom, primarily for three types of organic sugar for Jenny's baking. Unfortunately, Plentiful did not stock organic soft brown sugar so we had to settle for the regular variety on this occasion.

I picked up four DVDs and Jenny found a couple of books in the charity shops.

After lunch, I settled down to start looking through the TV listings for next week to find the various programmes we watched for recording.

Friday, 7th October 2022

I called at the old school to look for the missing cable for the surround system I had tested at home. There was no sign of it.

We continued towards Bury, calling to drop off the vacuum cleaner I had checked and failed to find the fault, for Val Parr.

We headed on down to Specsavers' franchise inside the Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park to collect Jenny's new glasses. What a difference that made to her eyesight!

It had been our intention to go down to Unicorn and Waitrose, south of Manchester, for our grocery shopping this week but since we were already at Sainsbury's store, it seemed silly not to shop there so we did so, after nipping into Home Bargains, next door, first.

We went on to finish our shopping at Tesco in Prestwich and then called to see Matthew and Carrie on the way home.

After an early-afternoon lunch, we packed the car and trailer, ready for the car boot sale in the morning.

I finished off my busy day by scanning the downloaded TV guide for series we watched and then the Radio Times for any other interesting programmes worth recording for later viewing.

Saturday, 8th October 2022

We were up at 6 a.m. and reached our car boot pitch, complete with trailer, at The Emmanuel Center on Longsight Road at about 8:30 a.m. We did quite well, after a slow start.

We were home for about 2:30 p.m.

I went round to the old school a few minutes after 3 p.m. to meet a lady we knew from D-Caff, called Jo, who also went to the Emmanuel Centre. She had arranged with me to drop off some jumble for the old school, some of which needed to be taken inside.

There was no sign of Jo when I arrived, a few minutes later than intended. I unlocked the door and went inside. While I was waiting, a car drew up. It was some other people dropping off items for the jumble sale, some of which was glassware and pottery. I said they could bring the fragile items inside and I helped to carry them into the old staff room, where jumble was sorted.

I came back home and Jenny made us a cup of tea, after which, we went out to unpack the car and store all our unsold car booty in the garage.

I fetched in some logs and put a beer in the fridge to cool down while I fired up the wood-burner. Jenny cooked tea.

And so another rare, fine, productive and profitable day drew to a close as we watched more old TV shows before retiring.

Sunday, 9th October 2022

We went round to the old school to have a session with the electrical equipment that had been donated prior to the next sale on the 24th October.

We took a packed lunch and didn't get back until turned 3 :30 p.m., just in time to power up my desktop system to record Jazz Record Requests at 4 p.m. while I checked the household accounts to make sure we were still solvent.

I lit the fire as the temperature was falling quite rapidly and I had a quick word with Rachel. when her mum called her for a chat, in between tending the fire. She was working again today, having undertaken to try to fix a problem with an application under Windows 10 that no-one else seemed to be able to resolve, not even the so-called professionals who implemented it nor the in-house IT support team, all of whom were well above her pay

grade. Rachel was making good progress and was almost ready to test her modifications in a live environment.

Monday, 10th October 2022

I spent most of my day trying to persuade my Windows 10 laptop to connect to a file share on my Windows 7 desktop again. It had been working fine after I had configured NetBIOS to run over TCP/IP until a couple of days ago, when it suddenly stopped. It worked without a hitch the other way round.

The good news was that I managed to get it working. The bad news is that I don't know how I did it. It just suddenly burst into life.

I had earlier tried to install a network packet analyser, which was a piece of software to capture, decode and display the traffic on a network, in order to try to trace the connection between the two computers. The analysis would have given me diagnostic information that would tell me exactly what was going on when the two computers were trying to communicate with each other. The old version of Colasoft Capture Free I had would not install because the licence had expired. The new version would not install because the licence key I had been sent by e-mail was invalid. Since I managed to resolve the problem, I no longer needed this software.

All this was interrupted by us both visiting the local doctor's surgery for our annual 'flu vaccination. On the way back, we called at the pharmacy for some regular medication, waiting for about twenty minutes for the staff to return from their lunch break.

I also responded to a letter I had received last Friday from the Bury Continence and Stoma Prescribing Service regarding prescriptions for disposable catheters. I telephoned the prescribing team to explain that I had contacted my nurse, Debbie, last Friday because she had said I could do so when I needed more catheters and Debbie said she would order me some. I was routed to an answering machine so I left a message explaining all this and asking them to check an order had been placed and to let me know what was happening. Not having received a response by mid-afternoon, I sent a more detailed e-mail to the address provided in the letter and awaited a response. I hadn't received one by the time I went to bed.

Tuesday, 11th October 2022

A good proportion of my morning was taken up with routine domestic duties. I finished editing the backlog of TV recordings that had piled up over the last couple of days due to the inability of the laptop computer to communicate with the desktop machine. I had started the task after solving the problem yesterday.

Next up was dealing with the backlog of e-mails. I had to leave off that task for lunch and then to prepare for our outing to Helmsshore Textile Museum (Mill), where we had an excellent guided tour of the old woollen mill and the old cotton mill.

Wednesday, 12th October 2022

I dealt with a few e-mails before taking Jenny down to Bury for her podiatry appointment. Afterwards, we made our way to Tesco for a few groceries and came home for lunch. First, though, I set about washing the dishes from last evening and this morning.

Looking at yet more e-mails, one of the new ones received was from BT with details of my next bill. I had a look at that and the refund for the shipment of equipment I received and didn't need, which I had returned, was still outstanding. It took me a good hour to sort that out, using the online chat service and communicating with three different people in turn.

I dealt with a few more e-mails and a bit of administrative work until it was time to take Jenny for her dental appointment.

On returning, I started the log burner in the lounge. It was quite cold and damp outside and cold and dry inside.

I tackled more e-mails and administrative work before tea and managed to deal with the tv recordings from the Radio Times listings for the coming Saturday.

Thursday, 13th October 2022

I spent a little time in the morning going through the TV listings for next week

In the afternoon I had a meeting with Joani to discuss the Dementia Awareness presentation modifications, which took 3 hours.

Friday, 14th October 2022

Apart from the usual domestic duties, we prepared for the afternoon session at the Dementia Café, D-CaFF. It was very busy and we were entertained by a musical trio. Jenny had a chat with the chap leading the ensemble and suggested I talked to him since he was a Jazz enthusiast. Not only had he been to new Orleans several times but he had also seen Louis Armstrong live, twice, when he toured Britain on two separate occasions.

He gave me details of a Trad Jazz club that met once a month just the other side of Bolton.

Saturday, 15th October 2022

This was our weekly grocery shopping day since we couldn't go yesterday. That took us down to Unicorn and Waitrose, south of Manchester.

Sunday, 16th October 2022

We went round to the old school to prepare more electrical jumble for the sale next week. We took a packed lunch and came home at about 3 p.m.

I spent the rest of the afternoon tidying up the TV programmes we had watched over the last couple of weeks and backing up my PC files.

Monday, 17th October 2022

Jenny had an appointment at Rochdale Infirmary for a scan in the morning and we called at Ramsbottom for a potter round on the way home.

Tuesday, 18th October 2022

I spent the day cutting up logs for the wood-burner.

Wednesday, 19th October 2022

Jenny had a hospital appointment at Fairfield General Hospital in Bury at 3 p.m. to discuss the result of her scan. We had a 1½ hour wait to see the lady surgeon because she had been delayed in theatre earlier in the day. Everything was fine.

We called at Tesco in Bury on way home for a few grocery items.

Thursday, 20th October 2022

I had a D-CaFF Dementia Awareness presentation in Tottington with Joani Beale. There were a few technical issues with Joani's laptop and we ended up using a PC belonging to the organisation at which we were presenting.

I later fixed problems on Joani's PC at home, ready for the next presentation in November.

Friday, 21st October 2022

We went grocery shopping to Sainsbury's store in Heaton Park and Tesco at Prestwich. I had an eye test booked at Specsavers inside Sainsbury's store and I went there while Jenny started her shopping.

Saturday, 22nd October 2022

We were at the old school from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., working on the electrical jumble for the sale on Monday. I found the cable I was missing for the surround-sound system.

Sunday, 23rd October 2022

We had another full day at the old school.

Monday, 24th October 2022

This was our third day at the old school, testing and pricing the electrical jumble, setting up our stall and selling items. We did quite well.

Tuesday, 25th October 2022

It was a nice day and I started off by clearing the leaves on the patio and back garden, which took a little while and almost filled the garden waste bin, which had been emptied the previous Friday.

We made some plum jam and then prepared a batch of oranges for making marmalade tomorrow, since the oranges that had been cut up in the food processor needed to soak in the added water overnight.

My antivirus software licence on the laptop was due to expire shortly and I looked at options for either renewing it or replacing it. I checked with Matt. He used Windows Defender, included with Windows, so I decided to use that on my laptop.

Wednesday, 26th October 2022

I tried to check on my next Urology appointment, due on 8th November, for which I had not received any confirmation. That was like pulling teeth.

After trying a couple of telephone numbers and being told I should be telephoning elsewhere, I finally managed to speak to a lady who said she would transfer me to the booking service to which I needed to speak. As a result I became number sixteen in the queue and I patiently waited, slowly moving up the queue. After forty minutes or so, I reached number two and I thought I was onto a winner when I received a recorded message saying there was a technical fault and it was not possible to deal with my call. I was then disconnected. I gave up.

We went to Ramsbottom a little late in the day because we needed more sugar for the marmalade than we had in the cupboard.

I found a Bix Beiderbecke CD in one of the charity shops and called at the hardware shop for two bow-saw blades for my wood-cutting. The shop that sold a lot of organic products, Plentiful, did not have any organic granulated sugar. We called at Morrisons, which was a waste of time, as was Tesco.

In the end, we came home for a quick snack and popped down to Sainsbury's at Heaton Park, where we bought the sugar we wanted and a few other grocery items.

We made the orange marmalade, which took ages to reduce. We had obviously used too much water.

Thursday, 27th October 2022

My catheters arrived at long last – the highlight of my day.

I spent my day wood cutting.

After a shower and a change of clothing, I started on next week's TV listings.

Friday, 28th October 2022

We had a pleasant day grocery shopping at Unicorn and Waitrose, lunching in the car in Waitrose's car park prior to entering the store. Using the in-store café was a waste of time since there were usually no gluten-free items available.

We called at Matt & Carrie's house on the way home for a chat and a brew, placing our frozen items in their freezer while we were there.

Saturday, 29th October 2022

It was late morning before we made it to the old school to work on the electrical jumble. We had packed lunch. Jenny came home early since there was nothing left for her to do. I was home in the late afternoon and finished off the TV listings for this week.

I helped with the preparation for tea and made up the fire as usual for these autumn evenings. Jenny was feeling the cold. I dealt with e-mails until tea was ready.

Sunday, 30th October 2022

Rachel was here for the weekend and we had a trip out to the Trafford Centre. Traffic on the outward journey was horrendous, as to be expected on a weekend at this time of year.

Rachel and Jenny went into Lakeland to look for baking items for Santa's Christmas Cracker at the old school at the end of November. They didn't find everything they wanted.

Meanwhile, I was pottering round John Lewis, primarily to look at dehumidifiers. They didn't have any, apart from a Dyson fan that seemed to include a small tank for moisture at the bottom.

I also had a look in Marks and Spencer and they had some nice, pure Marino wool sweaters and some pure cotton items, none of which I really needed. They also had the pure cotton pyjamas I did need and I decided to find Jenny before purchasing any. What I couldn't find were any pure cotton long-johns which I was sure they had last year and which I really did need for the coming winter, since we were not using the central heating.

I went to find Jenny and Rachel in Lakeland and, needless to say, we headed straight for the car and came home for tea, omitting my planned revisit to Marks and Spencer.

Monday, 31st October 2022

We had afternoon tea at Falshaw's Tea Rooms, organised by Joani Beale on behalf of D-CaFF. for the volunteers. Unfortunately, Joani was indisposed and Dianne deputised for her. Jenny had originally invited Marie, Matt's mother-in-law, to join us but she had telephoned Jenny to say another, more urgent matter required her attention and Jenny had asked our friend, Gwen, to join us and we collected her on the way.

The tea was very nice and was followed by a beetle-drive and that was followed by a raffle. It was one of those rare occasions when I won first prize in the beetle-drive, with the highest score for a man and Jenny won a raffle prize.

We dropped off Gwen on the way home.

I lit all the small candles in all the Halloween display items, including the pumpkin in which Rachel had very cleverly carved a witch's face and put them in the window. That attracted several children trick-or-treating, for whom we were well prepared, despite the very wet weather.

